

No Place for Pooch

✓ **D**uxbury Police Chief Mark DeLuca reports an increase in pedestrians walking their dogs in Mayflower Cemetery. Unfortunately, these dogs don't just walk, they do their business as well.

It's understandable that people enjoy visiting Mayflower Cemetery. Famous folks are buried there. Ruth Wakefield, inventor of Toll House Cookies, lies there. George Partridge, born in 1740, a U.S. congressman and delegate to the Continental Congress is there. This is where Jerry Williams, the radio talk-show host, is laid to rest.

A cemetery is a tranquil respite from the stress of everyday life and has historically been a place for contemplation: about life, mortality, the legacy each of us would like to leave. We read the gravestones of those who've passed before us, a summation of their hopes and disappointments, and we feel a kinship with past generations.

It shouldn't be a place where you watch your step lest you

EDITORIAL

get something foul on your shoes. But after an eight-month study, the cemetery

supervisor noted that too many dogs, either running loose or on a leash, were taking liberties. It's readily apparent that dogs and cemeteries are inherently incompatible. Think of all the

grave markers that dogs themselves love to mark, the tempting tree, the enticing fencepost. A Veteran's grave was once a

target. If a canine is going to relieve himself, he should do it in

his own backyard. If he has an accident at the graveyard, his owner should scoop it up.

Common decency dictates at least that much. Dogs desecrating the cemetery are an affront to the people buried there and to their families.

Signs were posted prohibiting dogs, to no avail. The chief says the police department will begin enforcing cemetery rules and regulations that

ban dogs, as well as Massachusetts General Laws.

The chief will also be patrolling for parked cars that obstruct funerals. There is a fence at the back of the cemetery that leads residents to believe the land on the other side is conservation land, and that's where they park their vehicles. This has led to the interruption of more than one funeral, because the funeral procession cannot get around the cars. Think of the distress this causes the already suffering families.

The chief won't be handing out tickets, just educating the offenders. Let's hope they are obedient students.

A sage once said, "The cemetery is filled with indispensable men."

Mayflower Cemetery is filled with dispensable manure.

